

## Writing Application: Letter

Writers use different types of sentences to convey different types of messages. When writers make statements, they use declarative sentences. When they ask questions, they use interrogative sentences.

**DECLARATIVE** Andrea is playing in the tennis tournament today.

**INTERROGATIVE** Where is the tournament being played?

### WRITING ACTIVITY

Your teacher has arranged for your class to write to students learning English in Denmark. Each student in your class has been assigned a Danish pen pal. Your assignment is to write a letter to your new pen pal. Using at least five declarative sentences, introduce yourself and tell your pen pal about life in the United States. Using at least five interrogative sentences, ask your pen pal questions about himself or herself and life in Denmark.

**PREWRITING** Think about what you would like to know about your pen pal, and make a list of your questions. Try to avoid asking only yes-or-no questions. Open-ended questions will give you more information. Your pen pal may have similar questions for you, so you can use your list to help you decide what to write about yourself. Think about what you would like to know about Denmark. What do you think your pen pal would want to know about the United States?

**WRITING** Decide how to organize your letter. You might tell about yourself in the first half of the letter and ask questions in the second half of the letter. Another way to write your letter is to alternate between telling about yourself and asking related questions about your pen pal. Since your pen pal is still learning English, he or she may not understand slang terms, so be careful with word choice.

**REVISING** Have a friend read your letter; then, discuss it. Is it interesting? Have you left out any important information about yourself? Can your friend think of any other questions that you should ask your pen pal?

**PUBLISHING** Check your paragraph for errors in spelling and punctuation. Does each declarative sentence end with a period? Does each interrogative sentence end with a question mark? With your teacher's permission, post your letter with your classmates' letters on the bulletin board. Find or create pictures that illustrate the area where your pen pal lives.

### EXTENDING YOUR WRITING

You may wish to extend this activity by finding a real pen pal for yourself or your whole class. Your teacher may be able to help you find Internet sites that help classes from around the United States or around the world set up letter exchange programs. Not only would you get to practice your writing skills, but you would make new friends as well.